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Yellow fever in the United States as reported to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service from August 31 to September 15, 1899.

Places.	Date.	Cases.	Deaths.
Florida:			
Key West.....	Aug. 31.....	6
	Aug. 31-Sept. 4...	28	3
	Aug. 31-Sept. 5...	50	6
	Sept. 6.....	14
	Aug. 31-Sept. 8...	96	8
	Sept. 9.....	31	2
	Sept. 10.....	23	1
	Sept. 11.....	12
	Sept. 12.....	29	1
	Sept. 13.....	35	0
Miami.....	Sept. 5.....	1
Port Tampa City.....	Sept. 10.....	1	1
Louisiana:			
New Orleans.....	Aug. 27-Sept. 12...	7	2
Mississippi:			
Jackson.....	Sept. 10.....	1
Mississippi City.....	Sept. 1.....	1	1
	Sept. 14.....	4

Smallpox precautions in Texas.

AUSTIN, TEX., September 1, 1899.

DEAR DOCTOR: Your attention is called to the inclosed copy of the quarantine law and opinion of the attorney-general construing the same. You will observe that upon you devolves the sole responsibility of administering quarantine in your county, and upon me the responsibility of seeing that it is enforced. It has frequently occurred that misunderstandings between county and city authorities have resulted in failure to properly isolate and treat infectious diseases at the outset, thereby allowing the infection to gain such headway that it has required great effort to check it, and the outlay of several times as much in expenses as would have been required if prompt action had been taken. I would, therefore, suggest that you take this matter up with your commissioners' court and obtain from them authority to declare quarantine temporarily when smallpox or other quarantinable diseases occur, without having to wait for their court to assemble.

Smallpox is now known to exist at 16 places in the State, and it may appear in your county any day, therefore promptness is required in attending to this matter. The law also makes it the duty of the State health officer to prescribe rules and regulations for the management of such local quarantine, and in the performance of this duty I call your attention to the inclosed rules and regulations. Great decision and firmness are required to thoroughly carry out the measures therein indicated, but these can easily be acquired if you but reflect on the magnitude of the responsibility imposed upon you. The State health officer is anxious to assist you in every way possible, and he will heartily support you in every necessary and reasonable measure for the protection of your public health, and you are solicited to advise with him freely.

Respectfully, yours,

W. F. BLUNT, M. D.,
State Health Officer.

I. J. JONES, M. D., *Secretary.*